

HOUSE BILL 3532
By McDonald

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 386 (Vietnam Veterans Boulevard) in Sumner County in honor of the late Danny S. Young, United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Danny S. Young, who was killed in the line of duty on March 2, 1968, while serving the United States Army in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Danny S. Young followed the patriotic tradition for which Sumner County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction as a Specialist Four in Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, United States Army; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Danny S. Young did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to rid The Republic of Vietnam, and indeed the world, of Communist aggression; and

WHEREAS, on that horrible day of March 2, 1968, Specialist Young distinguished himself and gave new meaning to the term "gallantry in action" while serving as RTO for the Commander of Company C in The Republic of Vietnam, near Saigon; and

WHEREAS, Company C was on a reconnaissance in force mission when it came under intense fire from a numerically superior enemy force; and

WHEREAS, although he had been wounded earlier by enemy machine gun fire, Specialist Young refused medical aid and fired upon the enemy until all his ammunition had been expended; and

WHEREAS, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Specialist Young crawled through intense enemy fire to obtain a grenade launcher from one of his comrades; and

WHEREAS, he then proceeded to put a devastating barrage of fire upon the enemy positions, successfully eliminating one Viet Cong machine gun position; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Young continued to pour effective suppressive fire upon the enemy until he was mortally wounded; and

WHEREAS, the citation that posthumously awarded The Silver Star to Specialist Young stated: "His valorous actions were responsible for saving several lives and the defeat of the enemy force. Specialist Young's personal bravery, aggressiveness, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, the 25th Infantry Division, and the United States Army."; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Young was also posthumously awarded The Bronze Star, and the citation for that medal lauded "his untiring efforts and professional ability," his "energetic application of his extensive knowledge," and "his initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, Danny S. Young served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Danny S. Young's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly desires to name a certain bridge on State Route 386 (Vietnam Veterans Boulevard) in Sumner County to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Danny S. Young; now, therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Station Camp Creek Road on State Route 386 (Vietnam Veterans Boulevard) in Sumner County is hereby designated as the "Danny S. Young Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Specialist Four Danny S. Young, Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, United States Army.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Danny S. Young Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, §54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.